

Freemasons

DRAWER

3A SOCIABILITY

71 2009 085.03528

Abraham Lincoln Sociability

Freemasons

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

DID LINCOLN BECOME A MASON?
New York Masonic Outlook, March, 1930.

"I have been told there is good authority for a report that Abraham Lincoln was made a Mason by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania during his Presidency. Is this supported by records? "
R. C., New York

There is no evidence to show that Lincoln was ever made a Mason, or even that he ever petitioned for the degrees; were such evidence in existence, the whole Craft would know of it and Lincoln's Masonic birthday, like Washington's, would be one of the Craft's special days, universally observed.

As for negative evidence, two facts may be noted: First, when the Grand Lodge of Illinois was holding a memorial service to Lincoln, out of respect for him as a man and president, the then Grand Master of Illinois expressly stated that Lincoln had never been a Freemason. Second, only three days after Lincoln's assassination, April 17, 1865, Tyrian Lodge, No. 333, Springfield, Ill., which naturally would have been Lincoln's lodge had he joined, adopted and spread on the minutes a Resolution which we quote:

"RESOLVED, That the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honors of Masonry, lest his motives should be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory" This quotation tells the whole story. Lincoln had decided to petition but postponed doing so until after the expiration of his second term of office.

WAS ABRAHAM LINCOLN A MASON?

Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" reads so much like a Masonic document that many have claimed him for membership in the Craft. The fact is that while he never ~~signed~~ signed a petition he intended to do so, and doubtless would have carried out his intention had not death prevented. In its minutes dated April 17, 1865, Tyrian Lodge No. 333, of Springfield, Illinois, adopted a resolution deploring the President's death and, among other things, stated:

That the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honors of Masonry, lest his motives be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory.

The record makes it clear that Lincoln was planning to petition for membership in Tyrian Lodge after the expiration of his second term.

(The above is taken from The New Age, official publication of the Scottish Rite bodies for the Southern Jurisdiction, published at the Scottish Rite headquarters at Washington, D. C.

Issue of January 1940

Cincinnati, Ohio, March 2, 1940

Mr. Charles H. Johnson, Secy.,
Grand Lodge F. & A. M.,
71 W. 23d Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Brother Johnson:

Will you kindly inform me if there is any official record that Abraham Lincoln was a member of the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New York?

I have in my possession a letter written by L. M. Johnson, dated New York, August 5, 1864, and addressed to Fred M. Harmon, Philadelphia, Pa., in which the writer states as follows:

"Mr Harmon, Mr. Lincoln is a Mason and a member of the Grand Lodge of New York. To the best of my knowledge, he is one of the few men who was accorded the honor of becoming a member of this great organization by acclamation."

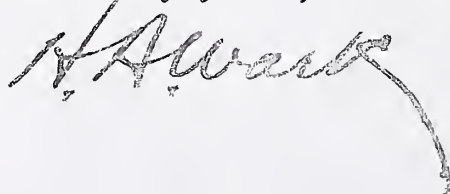
I infer from the above that Mr. Lincoln may have been honored by one of the New York lodges by being made a Mason "at sight."

Undoubtedly, if the statement of the writer of the letter is true, your office should have a record of such a procedure.

In as much as I am about to undertake extensive research work on the subject of Mr. Lincoln's having been a Master Mason (?), the information as requested by me herein will very greatly facilitate my work.

Assuring you of my very sincere appreciation of your cooperation in this matter, I am,

Fraternally yours,



Homer A. Wark, Ph. D.,
2458 Harrison Avenue,
Cincinnati, Ohio

March 7, 1940

Mr Homer A Mark Ph D.,
2468 Harrison Ave.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Brother Mark:-

When I received your letter I was about to answer it promptly because I knew that Abraham Lincoln was not a Mason. I also knew that he had never been made a Mason "at sight" in this jurisdiction.

However to make sure I had our Library make a search of their records and all the material it had. The report I received from the Library is that there is no evidence anywhere that Lincoln was a Mason and he certainly was never made one in this State.

Respectfully yours,

Grand Secretary

1
HOMER A. WARRIL
STUDENT AND COLLECTOR OF
ETHNOGRAPHY
CIVIL ENGINEER, OHIO

March 27, 1940

Charles H. Johnson, Grand Secretary,
Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Brother Johnson:

Your letter of the 24th inst. was
received by mail. I am very grateful to you for
the very thorough search of your records. However,
it is with regret that I learn that Abraham Lincoln
was not a Mason.

I believe you will be interested in
reading the enclosed copy of a letter from a French
Judge. It is not asking the name of you, or asking
up too much of your time. Will you kindly
write to him, in your opinion, Mr. Lincoln would or
should be honored as a posthumous Mason? I will
await your reply with interest.

Again thanking you for your information.

Respectfully yours,

Homer A. Warril

4118 Harrison Avenue,
Westwood, Cleveland, Ohio

(C O N F I D E N T I A L)

(Translation)

LODGE OF LA FRANCHIE UNION, AT CHOISY-LE ROI,
DEPARTMENT OF THE SEINE

the 17th of May, 1865

Sir:

All honest hearts were filled with indignation at the news of Mr. Lincoln's death, and earnestly execrated the fratricidal hand that felled the great citizen of the United States. Tell your fellow-countrymen that during this mortal duel between freedom and slavery we never ceased to offer up our prayers for the good cause. Tell our brothers of the great Republic we mourn with them the loss of a brother whose memory will be ever dear to patriots and Freemasons. He honored Masonry, and we ought to feel more sensibly than others the loss caused by the assassin's dagger, hid under the cloak of liberty. His death reminds us masons, living in the shadow of Rouget de l'Isle's tomb, that in times of great convulsions it is from the field and workshop that great men spring with a bound to save their countries; and the history of our two nations furnishes many such examples. Honor also to Mr. Lincoln for the simplicity he brought from his home to the place where he exercised the great trust confided to him, and proved the most perfect model of a chief magistrate. This lodge in its last session decided by acclamation to make known to the brethren in the United States that it wears with them mourning for the hero and martyr whose patriotism has made him the fellow-citizen of all friends of justice and liberty.

From this date the name of ABRAHAM LINCOLN is inscribed on the list of our members, and at each session, for three months, a brother will rise at the call of his name and answer: "ABRAHAM Lincoln died like a Mason, to elevate humanity, outraged by slavery." At the expiration of three months we will celebrate a Masonic Funeral to his memory, inviting the brethren of all the other lodges.

BOURGEOIN, JR. Venerable.
and twenty-four members
of the lodge.

To The United States Minister,
Paris, France

(Masonic Seal)

131

Amesbury

April 2, 1940

Mr. Homer A. Wark,
2458 Harrison Avenue,
Westwood, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Brother Wark:

I have your letter together with the enclosed copy of a letter from a Masonic Lodge in France. On the basis of that letter, it would not be advisable to consider Lincoln "a posthumous Mason". This phrase would certainly be questioned by anyone who had any knowledge of Free Masonry.

In the first place, there could not be such a type of member in the Fraternity as only living men can be accepted. In the second place, the fact that a Lodge somewhere in France expressed its admiration for Mr. Lincoln by saying he should have been a Mason would hardly constitute sufficient foundation for claiming him to be one.

As a collector of Lincolniana you are acquainted with the many lives of Lincoln that have been written and it is quite certain that if he had ever joined the Fraternity it would have appeared in some of those biographies, at least casually. You may, also, be sure that the Grand Lodge in whose jurisdiction he had joined a Lodge, would have long since boasted of it.

Personally, I cannot see what is to be gained by attempting to force, without sufficient evidence to substantiate it, this great personality into the Order. Of course, it would have been a marvelous asset to the Fraternity if he had been a member.

Fraternally,

(Charles Johnson)

Grand Secretary

MASONS FIRST TO CONDEMN WILKES BOOTH

The Masons of Little Rock, Ark., were the first to call a meeting and emphasize their condemnation and sorrow for the tragic death of Abraham Lincoln by the hand of John Wilkes Booth, according to Stoddard's "The Life of Abraham Lincoln." This work states:

"The intelligent people of the Southern States felt that their 'Stage Mad Avenger,' had inflicted upon them a fresh disaster and they both publicly and privately expressed their anger and regret.

"Their feeling is well illustrated by the action of the Masonic Fraternity of Arkansas, locally known as the 'Reb. Masons.' They were the first to call and hold a meeting to declare and emphasize their condemnation and sorrow, and a hall in Little Rock, the State Capital, was well filled with those assembled.

"In large part they were ex-Confederate soldiers many of whom still wore the remnants of their army uniforms, and they listened to a funeral oration upon Abraham Lincoln from the lips of a well-known Union man of the Masonic Fraternity. It was but 12 hours after the news of the murder reached Little Rock by telegraph."

WAS LINCOLN A FREE MASON?

SUE CITY, Mo., Feb. 20, 1880.
Will you please inform me whether or not Abraham Lincoln was a Free Mason?
H. H. F.

Answer—We have never heard that Abraham Lincoln was a Free Mason; nor do any of his family know that he was in any way connected with that fraternity. Shortly after his death they received a very large number of resolutions from Masonic bodies, principally from France. Considerable inquiry was made at the time to ascertain if Mr. Lincoln really was a Mason or not, but it could never be ascertained that he was. It is supposed that he was not, but that the resolutions were sent in consequence of some newspaper publications stating that he was a Free Mason.

LINCOLN INTENDED PETITIONING FOR MASONIC DEGREES

The question frequently is asked: "Was Abraham Lincoln a member of the Masonic Fraternity?" As a matter of fact, the Great Emancipator was not, and it is a matter of note that none of the other leading figures of the Civil War, such as Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Gen. Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, were members of the Craft.

However, that the beloved Lincoln had seriously contemplated petitioning for the Masonic Degrees after he had left the field of politics was brought out recently by a noted Masonic writer, Herman Bauling, 32°, of Los Angeles, Calif. Mr. Bauling states that in its minutes of April 17, 1865, Tyrian Lodge No. 333, of Springfield, Ill., adopted a resolution deploring the President's tragic death and expressing the sorrow of the brethren. Further the resolution stated: "That the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honors of Masonry, lest his motives be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory."

When we remember the bitter political strife of those days, and the fact that not many years before Masonry had passed through a crushing ordeal known as the Anti-Masonic Movement, inspired by the Morgan affair, it will readily be seen that Mr. Lincoln displayed his usual keen judgment in not wishing in any manner to subject the Fraternity to criticism by petitioning for the degrees while occupying the office of Chief Executive.

Square + Compass June 1942

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1005

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 12, 1948

LINCOLN AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

The question is often raised whether or not Lincoln was ever affiliated with any fraternal organizations, secret organizations, and religious denominations. Long before he was nominated for the presidency he was charged with either holding membership in, or on the other hand showing anti-tendencies towards, certain social, philanthropic and reform movements.

While a member of the Illinois Legislature in 1837, he joined with but one other member in objecting to an anti-abolition resolution which had passed, yet he could at no time in his life be definitely associated with the radical anti-slavery forces or in sympathy with the measures which the radical members of the abolitionist group supported.

Abraham Lincoln affiliated with the Washington Temperance Society as early as 1841 and while he is known to have made several speeches in favor of temperance yet he probably could not be classified among the more ardent reformers of that period. The *Springfield, Illinois State Register* charged that he had joined the society for political influence and this charge may have made Lincoln cautious about joining other organizations as time went on.

A group of men who wielded considerable political influence and were opposed to the Catholic Church were tabed "Know-Nothings." Lincoln was accused of having been a member of the organization but this he emphatically denied on several different instances. In a letter to Joshua Speed in 1855 he stated: "I am not a Know-Nothing. That is certain." Writing to Edward Lusk in 1858 he said: "I am not, nor ever have been, connected with the party called the Know-Nothing party."

When Lincoln ran for Congress in 1845 he was charged by his opponents with being an atheist. This accusation he found necessary to deny in the form of a printed poster, yet, modern historians still pin the charge of infidelity upon him. It is admitted generally that he was not a member of any orthodox religious body. The story, so widely circulated in recent years, that he joined a missionary society, can only be sustained by considering donations which he made as fees for membership.

During the war on March 12, 1864, two military officers, members of the Knights of Pythias, were cited to appear before the President and his Secretary of State to answer the charge that the order was a treasonable organization. Secretary Seward asked that the ritual be read, which request was refused unless the President and Secretary would take the obligations. The President is said to have replied, "That is very fair." The Knight then said, "There is one portion of the ritual which I can disclose to you:—Every member of the Order of Knights of Pythias must be loyal to the flag of his nativity or to the flag of his adoption." Thereupon the President is said to have remarked, "Gentlemen you are released. This information has done

the work." It is not likely however that Lincoln could have been received into the order by affirming this one obligation in the ritual.

One of the several political units absorbed by the newly organized Republican Party was known as the "Anti-Masonic group" which openly opposed Freemasonry. During the 1860 campaign Rev. Dyer Burgess of Adams County, Ohio, an anti-mason adherent "wished to support Abraham Lincoln but would not do so until he had written a letter to Mrs. Lincoln and received an answer to the effect that Mr. Lincoln did not belong to any secret society." In a reply written by Mrs. Lincoln to Dyer Burgess on October 29, 1860, there is this statement, "Mr. Lincoln has never been a Mason or belonged to any secret order."

Previous to the writing of this letter by Mrs. Lincoln, but during the same month, Dr. Robert Morris of Oldham County, Kentucky, visited Springfield, Illinois, called on Mr. Lincoln and reported his conversation with the President in these words:

"Mr. Lincoln, I came up the road last night with an old Masonic friend, Judge Douglas. Last Friday I came down to Louisville with another Masonic friend, Mr. Breckenridge, and a few weeks ago one of my agents, Mr. Porter, met in the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Mr. John Bell. So you see all three of your opponents for the Presidential chair are Freemasons.

"Mr. Lincoln replied: 'I am not a Freemason, Dr. Morris, though I have a great respect for the institution.'"

The *New Age* in its issue for January, 1940, states that Tyrian Lodge of Springfield in its minutes for April 17, 1865, after adopting a resolution on the President's death entered this notation:

"That the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honors of Masonary, lest his motives be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory."

Possibly a word should be said about Lincoln's association with informal groups which might remove any idea that he was anti-social. While a member of the Illinois Legislature, he was grouped with eight other senators and representatives from Sangamon County known as "The Long Nine." A debating and literary society at Springfield, Ill., held his interest for a period of time. He was classed by his political opponents as a member of the local "Junto" clique of Whigs at Springfield, who were supposed to have controlled the party. His association with a political group in Washington, during his term in Congress known as the Young Indians, further reveals his gregarious tendency. The fact that Lincoln was not a member of several social, philanthropic, and reform groups should not imply he did not have the spirit of fraternalism.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was shot by an assassin at the National Capital, on the evening of April 14, 1865, and died on the morning of the day following. When the news of the assassination reached Springfield it produced results that were but the counterpart of what transpired in other parts of the State. On the Monday following, Tyrian Lodge, No. 333, met and adopted the following preamble and resolutions. The greater portion of the preamble is omitted here to conserve space.

IN TYRIAN LODGE, No. 333, A.F. & A.M., SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 17, A. D. 1865, A.L. 5865

* * *

The members of Tyrian Lodge No. 333, A.F. & A.M., in regular communication convened, with members of Springfield Lodge, No. 4, Central Lodge, No. 71, and other worthy visiting brethren, deem this a suitable occasion to express their opinions as Masons and citizens in this momentous crisis; therefore,

Resolved, That as the immediate friends and neighbors of our late and beloved and now revered President LINCOLN, we deeply and sorrowfully deplore his death.

Resolved, That the scrupulous honor and honesty of President LINCOLN in all his private relations, his faithfulness and kindness as a husband and father, his fairness and ability as a lawyer, his wisdom and public spirit as a citizen, and his patient, humane and honest career as a magistrate and statesman, furnish examples worthy of all praise and imitation.



Lincoln Monument and Tomb, Springfield.

Resolved, That we sincerely condole with the bereaved widow and fatherless children in their terrible and irreparable loss.

Resolved, That the decision of President LINCOLN to postpone his application for the honors of Masonry, lest his motives should be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory.

Resolved, That the murderer of President LINCOLN, and the assassin of Secretary SEWARD, should be hunted with unceasing vigilance and vigor until found, and be brought to trial, judgment and punishment.

Resolved, That Masons should in all cases be subject to the law, abide by the law, be ready to assist in enforcing it, and should never connive at, tolerate or encourage disrespect for law, or any disobedience or infraction of it; for Masons hold themselves subject to rules; and the law of God, and of the land, should in all cases be the paramount rule of action.

Resolved, That we have an unshaken faith in the principles of free government; and while we tolerate the utmost freedom of opinion and choice, we hold it to be our duty, and we hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to stand by the Government in all its lawful measures to preserve its vigor and maintain its integrity.

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and these resolutions be forwarded to every lodge in this State, with a request that the same be concurred in, and that the action of each lodge be communicated to the Grand Secretary.

Resolved, That the editor of the *Masonic Trowel* and of the several papers published in this State, be requested to publish this preamble and these resolutions.

O. H. MINER, W. M.
H. G. REYNOLDS,
JESSE K. DUBOIS,
J. R. TYSON,
T. R. KING,
PIERSON ROLL,

Committee.

JOHN C. REYNOLDS, Secretary.

THE WIGAN GRAND LODGE

It is a well known fact that there were at one time in England five Grand Lodges and that these separate entities had completely disappeared by 1813 when the Ancients and the Moderns joined to form the United Grand Lodge. It is a curious and little known fact that there was still another Grand Lodge constituted in England ten years after the Union and that this new Grand Lodge functioned for a period of 43 years.

In 1823, following a controversy with the United Grand Lodge extending from 1818, several lodges in Lancashire in the vicinity of Liverpool withdrew from the United Grand Lodge and established one under the title, Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England according to the Old Constitutions. They maintained that the United Grand Lodge had gradually innovated upon the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, and that, having violated the fundamental principles and practices of Masonry, the United Grand Lodge had broken its contract and that the Covenant was thereby dissolved.

Twenty-six brethren representing six different lodges signed the new Constitutions, which they termed the Magna Charta of Masonic Freedom, and solemnly pledged themselves to "Maintain, Uphold, and Practise in all times to come the Ancient Landmarks, Usages, and Customs of Masonry and Masonic Government as laid down in the Ancient Constitutions of the Order." This Grand Lodge was constituted at Liverpool on July 21st, 1823 and its Grand Master and Grand Officers were installed at the Shakespeare Tavern, Liverpool, on December 22nd, 1823. Most of the subsequent communications were held at Wigan and hence that body became known as the Wigan Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons according to the Old Constitutions continued to meet quarterly, half-yearly, and yearly, and to warrant new lodges. The last warrant issued was No. 6 to St. Paul's Lodge at Ashton-under-Lyne on October 16, 1843. There were never more than six lodges under this Grand Lodge registry. The Royal Arch

Degree was conferred in this Grand Lodge in 1840 and the Sublime Degree of Knight Templar in 1860. The Grand Master's chair, Grand Lodge Banner, Grand Lodge Seal, clothing, and jewels have been preserved.

The last communication of the Wigan Grand Lodge was held at Wigan on July 18, 1866. At this time only one lodge, Sincerity No. 1, remained on its register.

More curious, perhaps, than this Grand Lodge is the record of Sincerity Lodge No. 1, the first and the last to serve under its banner. Warranted by the "Moderns" in 1786, it continued under United Grand Lodge until 1823 and from 1823 to 1866 met regularly under jurisdiction of the Wigan Grand Lodge. From 1866 to 1913 Sincerity No. 1 continued to meet under its own authority, and in 1913 was again received into the United Grand Lodge of England. Thus at the mellow age of 163 years that lodge has worked for 116 years under three different Grand Lodges and for 47 years independent of higher authority.

ALW.

March 2, 1954

Rev. George M. Cordner
Toledo State Hospital
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Rev. Cordner:

Inasmuch as Dr. Warren is out of the office on his annual speaking itinerary, I take occasion to reply to your recent letter.

Abraham Lincoln was not a member of the Masonic Order, and we have no proof that he intended to affiliate with the Lodge following his return to Springfield after his term of office as President. Lincoln, however, had a great respect for the Lodge and had a close friend who was a Mason, Bowling Green. He also associated with Stephen Douglas and Breckenridge, who were members of the Order.

Rev. Dyer Burgess of Adams County, Ohio wrote to Mrs. Lincoln in 1860 asking whether or not her husband was affiliated with any secret societies. She replied to him on October 29, 1860: "Mr. Lincoln has never been a mason or belonged to any secret order..."

Mr. Bayard Baker, a retired educator of Carthage, Indiana has written an article entitled "Abraham Lincoln and Freemasonry" which discusses this subject. It appears in the magazine THE INDIANA FREEMASON for February 1952. A copy of this may be secured by writing to: Laurence R. Taylor, Editor at Franklin, Indiana.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Moellering
Secretary to Dr. Warren

m/m



~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

HENRY J. ROBISON
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ DIRECTOR

ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO THE
SUPERINTENDENT

TOLEDO STATE HOSPITAL

JOSEPH E. DUTY, M. D., SUPERINTENDENT

TOLEDO, OHIO

February 15, 1954

Doctor Louis A. Warren
The Lincoln National Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Doctor Warren:

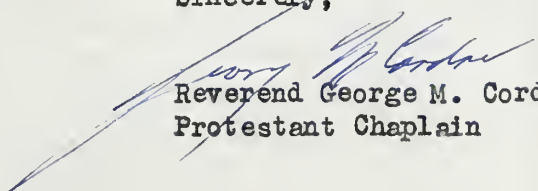
I should like to impose upon you again for some help which I am sure you can give me.

In recent days the constant emphasis upon the life of Lincoln, and personal items concerning him, has once again brought to my mind a question which I have not had suitably answered in the past. I am turning to you in the hope that you, from your extensive knowledge of Lincoln, may be able to give me an exact answer, or at least the best opinion on the problem that is available today.

From time to time I have heard various statements made concerning Lincoln's relationship to the Masonic Fraternity. These statements generally agreed that Lincoln never was a Mason. The point of disagreement arises however in his intentions and his attitude. I have heard from various sources that President Lincoln expressed his intention to petition the Masonic Lodge at Springfield when he returned from his service as President. I have also heard that he presented a petition to the Lodge, and requested that it not be acted on until he had returned home at the close of his term of office. I have also heard that neither of these statements were true, but that Mr. Lincoln refused to become a member of the Masonic Fraternity in spite of having been asked repeatedly to do so.

Would it be possible for you to let me know the truth of this situation, or to refer me to some source from which the truth could be determined. I shall appreciate any help that you would be able to give me in this matter.

Sincerely,


Reverend George M. Cordner
Protestant Chaplain

GMC/mc
pm



THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF COLORADO

March 15, 1960

HARRY W. BUNDY
GRAND SECRETARY
300 MASONIC TEMPLE 1614 WELTON STREET
DENVER 2, COLORADO

Wendell Walker
71 West 23 Street
New York, 10, N.Y.

Dear Wendell:

Thanks for sending me the items about the picture which have been so cleverly faked as to show Lincoln in Masonic regalia. This is undoubtedly the same one that I saw in the Ecuador Publication and called to their attention as being a fraud. If there are any further developments in this matter I'll be glad to let you know. In the meantime, thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Harry W. Bundy,
Grand Secretary

HWB:ce

Memo from
E. P. WHITE, JR.

12-6-63

Dear Bro. Underwood:

I am delighted with your inquiry of Dec. 3. These queries indicate that the High Twelve is being read.

Lincoln was not a Mason but C. J. Hyde tells me that he intended to petition to become one. His heart was in a proper attitude before he was assassinated.

This nation was started by Masons. It was nurtured by Masons. It will be saved by Masons.

Any corollary of even the

Memo from

E. P. WHITE, JR.

2

Profane must be construed
by us to represent the
attitudes which promote
and publicize our interests
and purposes.

ok eh?

E. P. White, Jr.

The High Twelvian
September-October
Vol. 37, No. 2, 1963

The **HIGH TWELVIAN**

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
1963 Vol. 37 No. 2

**November 19, 1863
Gettysburg, Penna.**



**THE GREATEST
MASONICALLY INSPIRED
SPEECH
EVER DELIVERED**



GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK

71 WEST 23 STREET
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

WENDELL K. WALKER
DIRECTOR

14 April 1966

Mr. Bert Sheldon
3315 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W.
Washington 200-6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Sheldon:

In reply to your inquiry, we found in our
file the enclosed note on the Lincoln picture, together with
a rather poor photocopy which is also enclosed.

Sincerely yours,



Director

WKW:rgb
encl

*message # 38
made in 1862
(Lament #45)*

Letters from Edward L. Bauer, Pythagoras Lodge
118, New Jersey, Oct 31, Nov 7, Dec 9, 1959.

During a recent trip to Paris, France, I saw the enclosed presume picture of President Abraham Lincoln dressed as a Freemason. This picture of Mr. Lincoln interested me and I had a copy made, the original was 10 X 15...

The above picture hangs next to President George Washington in the Grand Library in "La Grande Loge De France"...

The sash as worn is typical of European Masonry, plus the visible symbols (particularly France). The apron I have not been able to identify regarding period etc...

My first thoughts when seeing the photograph was that it might have something to do with the Anti-Masonic Party, however, I believe it ran its course by 1842 unless there was some feeling left when Mr. Lincoln ran for President and while he was still in office. Cartoonists during his time had a field day with him and its possible a photographer had one also, but no one I have written to had ever heard or seen this picture before I brought it back from France, last month.

The question was raised if this was actually Mr. Lincoln, this I can't answer as yet but on my next trip to France I hope to obtain more answers...

Additional information received from Bro. Arthur J. Stanley P.M. of Lincoln Lodge No. 154, Lincoln, Kansas, gives more "Light" on this subject and I quote as follows:

"Among my books is one called simply "Lincoln". The compiler of this book is Stefan Lorant; it bears copyright date 1952 is published by Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33 Street, New York 16, N.Y., and bears Library of Congress catalog number 52-8481. In the appendix of Lorant's "Lincoln" at page 230 is found a copy of the picture sent to our Worshipful Master, with inquiry as to Abraham Lincoln's affiliation with the Masonic Order. The explanation there found completely refutes any such notion, I quote in full:

"The Frenchman, Raymond Lecuyer, in his sumptuous Histore de la Photographie (Paris 1945) prints an "original" photograph showing Lincoln in the insignia of the Freemasons. A close scrutiny

reveals that the white band and apron were painted over a Mathew Brady photograph (No. 45 see page 241) taken some time in 1826".

"One having in hand Lorant's book, and examining picture 45 on page 241 thereof can easily detect the attempted deception".

I also reviewed Mr. Lorant's book the revised edition 1957 and for some reason he removed the picture and the above statement found on page 230 in the old book (1952). However, picture No. 45 now on page 289 is apparently the one used to make this photograph...



Faternal Orders

7 May 1966

Dear Gerald

I am in complete and absolute agreement with you as to the Complete lack of pertinent plausible, a permanent, value (or any use whatever) of the List of Lincoln-named Masonic Lodges.

I sit here 8 hrs a day 5 days a week; quite possibly this inquiry is merely another Brainstorm, - to have something to do.

In this particular effort and inquiry I am moved pretty much - in collecting the Lincoln-named Lodge list, - to give to Elmer Stein (a retired deputy chief in our DC FD) as Elmer now has what used to be my talk, on "Lincoln and Freemasonry".

Some

↑ The significance of ~~the~~ Lincoln-named Masonic Lodges, is

I am curious about, and interested, in - the fact that so very many-many Tinent distinguished Americans were Masons; for whom lodges could be named

and some of course are

But! here

we have 16 lodges named for a man who was not a Mason

The Masonic Lodge Members certainly were not hard up for names to choose from

Yet they name 16 Lodges

for a man who was not a Mason.

Here's the list: ^{FLOR} Cal., San Francisco #177

Colo Lyman 146

Idaho, Gooding #59

INDIANA Macy # 527

Iowa, Blairtown, 199

Kentucky, STANFORD #16

Mich Detroit # 504

Minn Milaca 226

Mo Fillmore #138

NEW YORK City NY 748

Ohio Middletown 693

Vermont Petersburg 78

Wisconsin MENOMONEE Falls 183

ILLINOIS! LINCOLN (ILL) # 210

Kansas! LINCOLN 154

NEBRASKA! LINCOLN 19

as Ever
Best



LOJAS DA JURISDIÇÃO

Acácia Itajaíense n. 1
Ord. de Itajaí

Presidente Roosevelt N. 2
Ord. de Cricluma

14 de Julho N. 3
Ord. de Florianópolis

Amizade ao Cruzeiro do Sul N. 4
Ord. de Joinville

Cruzeiro do Sul N. 5
Ord. de Joaçaba

Fraternidade Blumenauense N. 6
Ord. de Blumenau

Lauro Müller N. 7
Ord. de Florianópolis

Mozart N. 8
Ord. de Joinville

Fraternidade Tubaronense N. 9
Ord. de Tubarão

Fraternidade Lagunense N. 10
Ord. de Laguna

Pedro Cunha N. 11
Ord. de Araranguá

Luz Serrana N. 12
Ord. de Lajes

TRIÂNGULOS
Bétel N. 1
Ord. de Rio do Sul

Obreiros de São João N. 2
Ord. de São Bento do Sul

Padre Roma. N. 3
Ord. de São José

A G.: D.: G.: A.: D.: U.:

GRANDE LOJA DE SANTA CATARINA

MM.: AA.: LL.: & AA.:

FUNDADA EM 21 DE ABRIL DE 1956 (E.: V.:)

Pr.: 510/66

Grande Secretaria em Florianópolis 18 de julho de 1966 E.: V.:

Ao Sr.

R. Gerald McMurtry

The Lincoln National Life Foundation

Fort Wayne, Indiana-USA

Dear Sir:

We are responding your letter of april,7
now received.

In Brasil we ever know that Great President
Abraham Lincoln was Freemason. We are very surprised
in front your statement that He was not so.

We don't know anything about the portrait
You refer. However we are investigating and when
we will have news, we will communicate to You as
soon as receive it.

Here we stay at your orders.

Sincerely and Fraternally

M. Gomes

Grand Secretary

SÉRGIO A. IVANENKO
RUA BERNARDINO DE LIMA, 346
TELEFONE 4-1255
BELO HORIZONTE
MINAS

aka 9/21/66
Belo Horizonte September 21, 1966.

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.
USA

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 6th. was handed to me the other day, reason for which I apologize for the delay in replying to same.

My name was certainly mentioned to you by somebody from the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Indiana since it happens that I am the Grand Representative of that Masonic Body near the Grand Lodge of Minas Gerais and it is with great pleasure that I take hold of the opportunity to be of some service to my good Brethren from Indiana.

To be honest with you, I should confess that I have already seen, if I am not mistaken, in a local Masonic publication, a picture of President Lincoln ornated with the Masonic insignia. As you know, Brazil was one of the last countries to abolish slavery, which was done in 1888; at that time Masonry was actively engaged, under the monarchic regime which came to an end in 1889, in a campaign aiming at the spontaneous and gradative liberation of the slaves by the land owners of the country. Since Masonry was a fundamentally republican political current, strongly pro american, it was current, in order to promote the abolitionary propaganda, to cite the example given by the U.S. and to stress President Lincoln's roler in these events. Since most of the abolitionist leaders were Masons it was quite natural, with the help of the exalted latinimagination, to "enroll" him in the Masonic rank and file...with a view to step up their enthusiasm for the Cause.

Anyhow, I am not surprised at anything of the sort...after having seen a photograph of Pope Pius IX bearing a 33d. Degree Collar as a result of his _{of} initiation in a Napolitan Masonic Lodge, some time in the early eighteen hundreds...

As requested, I shall try to discover more details on the subject and will let you be informed in due course.

Yours sincerely

Sergio A. Ivanenko

THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES
700 TENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C., 20001

CONRAD HAHN
Executive Secretary

October 28, 1966

WILLIAM C. EDMUNDS
Chief Field Agent

Mr. Bert Sheldon
3315 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20016

Dear Brother Sheldon:

Thank you so much for your letter of October 23, and especially for the copy of the letter from the Grand Lodge of Santa Catarina to R. Gerald McMurtry concerning Lincoln's Masonic membership. I have made a copy of that letter for our files, and sent the copy you forwarded to me to Brother Stein, as you suggested.

The brethren in South America are, of course, mistaken about the membership of Lincoln in Masonry. They have gone on information which was "traditional", but not supported by any facts. At least, so far as I know, that must be our conclusion at the present time.

With many thanks for your continued help and interest,

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

Conrad Hahn
CONRAD HAHN
Executive Secretary

CH:mac

Gerald: You may keep this for your files - ok? Bill



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1595

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

January, 1971

ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS NOT A FREEMASON

Some members of the masonic fraternity have claimed that Abraham Lincoln was a Freemason. It has been asserted that Lincoln was initiated in one of three lodges; namely, the Grand Lodge of New York, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and an army lodge attached to General Grant's forces in front of Richmond, Virginia. One masonic lodge even attempted to provide Lincoln with posthumous membership. On May 17, 1865, the Lodge of La Franche Union, at Choisy-Le-Roi, Department of the Seine, notified the United States Minister that "From this date the name of Abraham Lincoln is inscribed on the list of our members, and at each session, for three months, a brother will rise at the call of his name and answer: 'Abraham Lincoln died like a Mason, to elevate humanity, outraged by slavery.' At the expiration of three months we will celebrate a Masonic Funeral to his memory, inviting the brethren of all the other lodges." This resolution was signed by "Bourgeon, Jr. Venerable" and twenty-four members of the lodge.

Other masons with little documentary evidence to rely upon have stated, "if Lincoln was not a mason he should have been," that he was the greatest uninitiated mason, that he was a mason "at sight," that he was a posthumous (only living men can be accepted for membership) mason, and that "a man can be a Christian outside the church and a man can be a mason outside the lodge." In fact, it is asserted that the Gettysburg Address reads so much like a masonic document that many have claimed Lincoln for membership in the craft.

Daniel B. Robinson in an address before the Prairie Lodge, No. 1008, A.F. & A.M. stated that "His (Lincoln's) every public utterance seemed to come from the lips of a master mason, his every public act seemed to be guided by the inspired mind of a Free and Accepted Mason and the very life he lived—in all its greatness—was an exemplification of the masonic precepts . . ." However, Robinson did not claim for Lincoln masonic membership.

William H. Grimshaw in his *History of Freemasonry*, 1903, lists Lincoln as a Freemason. In a letter dated April 5, 1917, he said, "So far as my book is concerned I quoted M. Edouard Quartier-la-Tente, P.G.M. Swiss Grand Lodge 'Alpina' who in the *Annuaire International Masonic Association* listed Lincoln among illustrious Freemasons." Mr.

Grimshaw continued, "I will further state that Mr. J. H. Brooks, who was Mr. Lincoln's messenger, informed me that Mr. Lincoln was a Mason. The degrees were conferred in an Army Lodge attached to Gen. Grant's Army in front of Richmond." Grimshaw wrote to Robert T. Lincoln, making inquiries about Lincoln's alleged masonic membership, and the son replied that there were no papers or other records among his father's papers to indicate that he was a mason.



From the Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge F.&A.M., State of New York, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, N. Y. 10010

A skillfully fabricated photograph of Lincoln (M-30, O-69, April 17, 1863) wearing a masonic sash and apron. The sash and apron with their visible symbols (particularly French) is typical of European masonry.

In the memorial volume published by the government in Washington, D.C., 1867, entitled *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln . . . Expressions of Condolence and Sympathy Inspired By These Events*, there are found the tributes of forty-four masonic bodies, most of these plainly referring to Lincoln as a brother mason. Today in many Central and South American masonic lodges, it is taken for granted that Lincoln was a mason. In a letter addressed to the editor on September 21, 1966, the statement is made by a grand master of a masonic lodge in Brazil that "since most of the abolitionist leaders were masons it was quite natural, with the help of the exalted latin imagination, to enroll him (Lincoln) in the masonic rank and file . . . with a view to step up their enthusiasm for the Cause." A Grand Secretary of a masonic lodge in Brazil wrote on July 18, 1966, "In Brazil we ever know that Great President Abraham Lincoln was a Freemason."

A Grand Secretary of a Colorado Grand Lodge wrote a letter dated March 15, 1960 stating that he had seen a picture of Lincoln in masonic regalia in a masonic publication printed in Ecuador, and a mason of New Jersey, on December 9, 1959, wrote of a recent trip to Paris, France where he saw "President Abraham Lincoln dressed as a Freemason" in "La Grande Loge De France" next to a picture of President George Washington who actually was a Freemason.

While Lincoln was not a Freemason, he did have some early and cordial contacts with mem-

bers of the fraternal group. Albert J. Beveridge, in his work *Abraham Lincoln 1809-1858* commented on the death of a good masonic friend of Lincoln: "On February 12, 1842, Bowling Green died. He was a Mason and Springfield Lodge Number 4 of that order conducted his funeral in a grove near his cabin. Lincoln was there, and, at Mrs. Green's request, tried to say something at the grave of his

old friend. Some who heard him, recall that his remarks were very fine and others that he made a sorry failure." In all likelihood, the "sorry failure" was the result of Lincoln's inability to control his emotion.

Mrs. Lincoln, on October 29, 1860, in a letter from Springfield addressed to D. Burgess, went on record regarding Lincoln's alleged masonic membership by stating, "Mr. Lincoln has never been a mason or belonged to any secret order . . ." The Rev. Dyer Burgess of Adams County, Ohio, was an anti-mason adherent, and he wished to support Lincoln if he did not belong to any secret society.

Previous to Mrs. Lincoln's statement, but during the same month, Dr. Robert Morris of Oldham County, Kentucky visited Lincoln in Springfield. In reporting his conversation with the Presidential candidate, he recorded these words:

"Mr. Lincoln, I came up the road last night with an old Masonic friend, Judge Douglas. Last Friday I came down to Louisville with another Masonic friend, Mr. Breckinridge, and a few weeks ago one of my agents, Mr. Porter, met in the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Mr. John Bell, so you see all three of your opponents for the presidential chair are Freemasons.

"Mr. Lincoln replied: I am not a Freemason, Dr. Morris, though I have a great respect for the institution."

During the 1860 political campaign for the Presidency the Grand Lodge of Illinois meeting in Springfield declared a recess in their deliberations in order that the Grand Lodge representatives might call on Mr. Lincoln. During the conversation which ensued Lincoln said: "Gentlemen, I have always entertained a profound respect for the Masonic fraternity and I have long cherished a desire to become a member, but I have never petitioned because I have felt my own unworthiness to do so." With the masonic visitors offering a protest Mr. Lincoln continued: "I might be overcoming my hesitancy and be petitioning at the present time but I am a candidate for political office, and by some such action would be misconstrued. For this reason, because my motives would be misconstrued, I must for the time being refrain."

This statement has caused many masons to believe that Lincoln would have petitioned for membership in 1869 if he had lived.

Benjamin B. French, Grand Master of the District of Columbia and Commissioner of Public Buildings in the nation's Capital, wrote a statement for a magazine entitled *The Masonic Trowel*, published in Springfield, Illinois, dated May 15, 1865:

"After Mr. Lincoln's election, signs of serious trouble were evidently manifest, and those Masons who knew Mr. Lincoln's kindly and trusting nature were very anxious that he should become a Mason. Dr. [Ira A. W.] Buck was then Grand Master, and in an easy way led Mr. Lincoln to converse upon the subject. In the course of the conversation, Mr. Lincoln remarked that he had often thought of the matter; that he believed it to be a good Institution, but no one had asked him to join, and he had put the matter off until business and other causes had engrossed his entire time. He made up his mind to be initiated, but after thinking the matter over he said that he would be liable to be charged with wrong motives, and he would defer the matter to some future time.

"Knowing only what he then knew, the motive which impelled him to decline Masonic honors was creditable; knowing what every Master Mason knows, his decision is to be lamented, for had he been a Master Mason, the chances for assassination would have been less."

In a letter dated at Washington City, April 20, 1865, to a mason named Harmon G. Reynolds, Benjamin B. French, who will be remembered by Lincoln students as the man who introduced Edward Everett at the Gettysburg Cemetery dedication and who wrote the ode which was sung by the Baltimore Glee Club, made the following statement about Lincoln's qualifications for masonry and his failure to secure membership:

"Abraham Lincoln was not a Free Mason, but he should have been. His pure heart, his honest and upright life, his kindly feeling toward every human being, his love of his country, his devotion to all her institutions, in-

deed his entire character as a man, would have made him an eminent Free Mason. He once told me how highly he respected our Order, and that he at one time had fully made up his mind to apply for admission into it; but, said he, 'I feared I was too lazy to do all my duty as I should wish to were I a member, and I have kept postponing my application.' I told him it was by no means too late now. To which he laughingly replied, 'Well, perhaps some day I may ask you to let me in.'"

The Summer of 1955 issue of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, pages 191-198, under "Lincolniana Notes" has a section devoted to "Lincoln and The Masons." In addition to the French statement and the letter to the editor of *The Masonic Trowel* as are partly given above, the article appearing in the *Journal* also contains the resolution on Lincoln's death, (April 17, 1865) passed by the masonic lodge in Springfield:

"The members of Tyrian Lodge No. 333, A. F. & A. M., in regular communication convened, with members of Springfield Lodge No. 4, Central Lodge No. 71, and other worthy visiting brethren, deem this a suitable occasion to express their opinions as Masons and citizens in this momentous crisis; therefore,

Resolved, That as the immediate friends and neighbors of our late beloved and now revered President Lincoln, we deeply and sorrowfully deplore his death.

Resolved, That the scrupulous honor and honesty of President Lincoln in all his private relations, his faithfulness and kindness as a husband and father, his fairness and ability as a lawyer, his wisdom and public spirit as a citizen, and his patient, humane and honest career as a magistrate and statesman, furnish examples worthy of all praise and imitation.

Resolved, That we sincerely condole with the bereaved widow and fatherless children in their terrible and irreparable loss.

Resolved, That the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honors of Masonry, lest his motives should be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory.

Resolved, That the murderer of President Lincoln, and the assassin of Secretary Seward, should be hunted with unceasing vigilance and vigor until found, and be brought to trial, judgment and punishment . . .

O. H. Miner, W.M.	J. R. Tyson,
H. G. Reynolds,	T. R. King,
Jesse K. Dubois,	Pierson Roll,
John C. Reynolds, Secretary.	Committee.

The late Harry E. Pratt, the editor of the *Journal*, pointed out that all the signers of this resolution had known Lincoln personally. The names of thirty-one other lodges that endorsed the resolution are given in the May 15, 1865 issue of *The Masonic Trowel* only to be followed by one hundred more in subsequent issues.

Perhaps we should concur with the Most Excellent Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, Benjamin B. French, that "Abraham Lincoln was not a Freemason, but he should have been."

Editor's Note: The editor is indebted to Bert Sheldon, Washington, D.C. who made a selection of the essays and printed material relative to Lincoln's alleged masonic membership, used in this short article, in the Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge F & A.M., State of New York, 71 West 23rd Street, New York, N. Y. 10010. See *Lincoln Lore*, Number 1005, July 12, 1948 titled "Lincoln And Fraternal Organizations."

The Tools of War

In the Foundation's archives is to be found a document bearing the title "Form of Endorsement by Prest." The document is a half sheet of letter size paper written on both sides in ink and bearing the signature (not genuine) "A. Lincoln." This document is not considered to be a forgery, rather it is thought to be a rough draft of a statement, likely dictated by Lincoln, which he intended to sign once it was re-written in a more presentable form. The handwriting does not appear to be that of any of Lincoln's secretaries.

The document is as follows:

In the fall of 1863 while the 21st Conn
Infantry was stationed in Norfolk Va
Dr Wright a citizen Dr was sentenced
to be hanged for shooting a Lieut
Sanborn for drilling Colored troops on
the side walk. The day for the execution
was set for Sept 16th but a reprieve was
granted for one month. During this month
a petition was forwarded to President Lincoln
through Brig Gen Barnes by the Free
Masons of Norfolk for a pardon.

Lincoln's reply was this

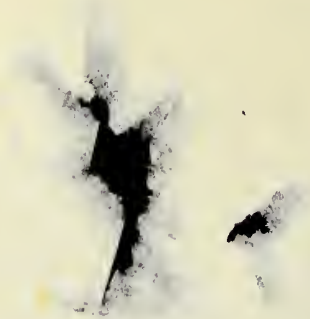
I Dr Wright is a Mason hang him
by all means we dont want any such
man in the order

(A Lincoln)

This came to my notice as a member of
the Provost Guard in the Office of Gen Barnes
David A Conant late 1st Sgt 21st C. I.

140 H

pg 71



214. **LEVY, AMY.** A Minor Poet. Lond., 1884. A London Plane-Tree. Lond., 1889. Together, 2 1st eds. (A)
215. **LIBERATOR, THE.** March to December, 1918. January to December, 1923. 2 vols., 4to, clo. (A)
216. **LINCOLN, ABRAHAM.** Tintype. Head and Bust. $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 1 in. Campaign Medal. Obverse. Head of Lincoln (without beard). Reverse, Head of Hamlin. Together, 2 items. Scarce.
217. **LINCOLN, A.** Last Days. By J. I. Pearce. The Perfect Tribute. By M. R. S. Andrews. American Statesmen. By J. T. Morse. Together, 4 vols. (A)
218. **LINCOLN, ABRAHAM, A Discourse on the Death of.** By T. M. Hopkins. Bloomington, Ind., 1865. 8vo, pamph. 7pp. (B)
219. **LINCOLN.** Transactions of the State Historical Society. 1924, 1926. Articles on Lincoln. Together, 2 vols. (A)
220. **LINCOLN, MRS. ABRAHAM.** A. L. S., 1p., 12mo. Springfield, Oct. 29, 1860. To D. Burgess. With orig. envelope. "Mr. Lincoln has never been a mason or belonged to any secret order. . . ."
221. **LITERARY HISTORY.** Outline of History. By Wells. The Eighteen Nineties. By H. Jackson. Journal of A. Bennett. The Century of the Reaper. By McCormick. Together, 5 vols. (A)
222. **LITERATURE, Library of Choice.** Ed. by Spofford and Gibbon. Illus. 10 vols. Phila., 1888. Lrg. 8vo, half mor., t.e.g. (A)
223. **LITHOGRAPH.** Timby's Cordon of Revolving Towers for Harbor Defence. Lith. of Endicott & Co., N. Y. (circa 1861) 26 in. x 21 in. (A)
224. **LIVY.** The Roman History by Livius; with the Supplement of J. Freinsheim. Trans. 6 vols. Lond., 1745. 8vo, clf. (C)
225. **LONGFELLOW, H. W.** Tales of a Wayside Inn. Bost., 1863. Orig. clo., t.e.g. 1st ed., 1st issue. (B)
226. **LONGFELLOW, H. W.** Tales of a Wayside Inn. Bost., 1863. Orig. clo. 1st ed., 2nd issue. (B)
227. **LONGFELLOW, H. W.** The Divine Tragedy. Bost., 1871. Aftermath. Bost., 1873. Together, 2 vols., orig. clo. 1st eds. (B)
228. **LOOS, ANITA.** Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. 1925. But They Marry Brunettes. 1928. Jacket. Together, 2 1st eds. (B)
229. **LOWELL, AMY.** John Keats. Illus. 2 vols. Bost., 1925. Orig. clo. 1st ed. (A)

Secret Societies

Rev. Wm. Burgess Adams County Ohio
anti-masonic anti-slavery.

"When Abraham Lincoln was first a candidate for
the presidency Mr. Burgess wished to support A. L. but
would not do so until he had written a letter
to Mrs. Lincoln and received an answer to the
effect that Mr. Lincoln did not belong to any
secret society. Then he supported Mr. Lincoln's
campaign most faithfully.

Evans & Shivers

Hinton, of Adams Co
Ohio

p 218

LINCOLN NOT A MASON; MORRIS' WAR RECORD.

LUCIEN V. RULE, in his history of Oldham County, appearing in the La Grange Era, says he has found, after months of search in old Masonic archives, authentic facts and accounts of Dr. Rob Morris and his loyalty to the Union during the Civil War. He quotes Dr. Morris' autobiography as follows with regard to Abraham Lincoln:

In the month of October, 1860, about a month before the Presidential election of that year, we were in attendance upon the Grand Lodge of Illinois at Springfield, and in accordance with an invitation to that effect, called upon Mr. Lincoln.

As we were known to be no politician, but had written a severe article the month before denouncing the treasonable indications of Southern politics, Mr. Lincoln was exceedingly courteous to us and gave us a lengthy and most pleasing conference.

To draw out of him in a pleasant manner the fact as to whether he was a Freemason or not, we remarked: "Mr. Lincoln, I came up the road last night with an old Masonic friend, Judge Douglas. Last Friday I came down to Louisville with another old Masonic friend, Mr. Breckinridge. And a few weeks ago one of my agents, Mr. Porter, met in the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Mr. John Bell. So you see all three of your opponents for the Presidential chair are Freemasons!"

Mr. Lincoln replied: "I am not a Freemason, Dr. Morris, though I have a great respect for the institution."

Seeing so many Masonic bodies laboring under the supposition, since his death, that he was a Freemason, we have thought it best to put these facts upon record. We have often stated the same thing in our lectures, as the brethren will testify.

In September, 1861, Doctor Morris accepted a commission as Masonic lecturer under the Grand Master of Indiana. He soon paid the price of his loyalty to the Union. He says:

"It was upon this tour while at Crown Point, Ind., November 7, that my dwelling at La Grange was burned by the midnight torch and my family turned out to the night air homeless. By the great good fortune of a camp of Federal soldiers being hard by, my costly collections of Masonic books were saved, though in a mangled condition. I received the intelligence next day by telegraph and hastened home to comfort the distressed group.

"Early in September of this year the prospects of the subjugation of Kentucky by the Confederate armies appeared to me so imminent that I withdrew my membership from Fortitude Lodge, No. 47, La Grange, of which I had become a member the year before and was now the master, and prepared to move my family to New York. The intention, however, was changed shortly after, as the danger alluded to passed away."

There are yet living in Oldham County two survivors of the earliest Union volunteers who may recall the burning of Dr. Morris' home and the saving of his property; but we have had not time to see them and make inquiry. They are Rev. George Froh of La Grange, and Mr. George W. Dick of Skylight.

In July, 1862, Dr. Morris was summoned by the Governor of Kentucky into actual military service in Oldham and the counties adjoining, not only in prospect of an invasion by Gen. Kirby Smith, but to put down the constant threat of guerrilla attack upon the unprotected people of his home community. Reluctant as he was to become involved in actual hostilities, Rob Morris was no weak and womanish character, as many have represented him. No incident of his entire life has so puzzled and baffled us as handed down by tradition, in which he is depicted as a spineless pacifist who fainted at the first smell of gunpowder!

Instead, he was the most firm of Union men and would have followed the Old Flag to battle if necessary. He was not a weakling or coward, reluc-

ant though he was to take up arms. He first tells us about accepting a commission as Colonel from the Governor; and then follows the card he published in defense of his loyalty to the Union:

"In July, 1863, I accepted very unwillingly the position of Provost Marshal of Oldham County, Kentucky, which caused me infinite trouble and expense. In August a commission as Colonel to raise a regiment of State Guards for three months' service was tendered me by the Governor. I accepted it with the view of preserving the county in which I lived and the adjoining district from the inroads of guerillas, and held the commission until the entire State Guard was mustered out of service, about the 1st of November.

"It is mortifying to me to acknowledge before the world that Masons in prominent places can lower themselves so far below the dignity of their profession as to utter wilful calumnies against one another. Yet it is true; and I have been made so often the victim of deliberate slanders as to justify me, if I choose, in publishing offending brethren before the world. That I have not done so is due to my sense of the impropriety of exposing the private affairs of Masonry to the public.

"The last slander, though not the foulest, that has been perpetrated to my injury is that I am disloyal to my country. A greater falsehood can scarcely be uttered. The Government at Washington and the Government of my own State have a thousand convincing evidences to the contrary. The fact of my appointment as Provost Marshal, and my election as commander of the Home Guards; the offers I have had from the Federal Government of distinguished positions; the universal sentiment of my neighbors and those who know me best; my heavy losses in consequence of my faithful allegiance, and the record of my whole life must speak for me and stamp upon the charge the infamy it merits.

ROB MORRIS.
"La Grange, Ky., August 1, 1862."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Contributed by W. Harry E. Dunn, Day Star Lodge, No. 793.

In speaking of the great men who have been native to the soil of the new world, who have been the natural outgrowth of our American civilisation, and have grandly met all the requirements of their situation, the name which first springs to our lips is that of George Washington; and the second is that of Abraham Lincoln.

Laying down his sword and the trappings of a soldier after the battle of Yorktown, Washington conducted the affairs of the nation during the great trials of its infancy, guiding it to a point of comparative safety.

Lincoln bore the brunt of responsibility for the success of the Federal army and the integrity of the United States for four long years, and just as the light of peace was breaking on the horizon, bringing with it a promise of rest and reward to a sore heart, he was shot down by an assassin. Both men were patriots, sages, statesmen and heroes. Both in their separate way went through the hard school of adversity. The noblest virtues of humanity formed the basis of their character. Both had, to a remarkable degree, judgment, purity of purpose, lofty ambitions, love of country and consideration for the rights and feelings of their fellow men. From his childhood, Lincoln revered the memory of Washington, keeping his image ever before him as a pattern to be imitated in his own thought and conduct. Just as the study of the life of Washington had such an influence on Lincoln, so should we study the life of

Lincoln in order that we might be inspired to a like nobleness of character. Tonight we will just get a glimpse of this man's life, and if from this humble presentation we will be inspired to exemplify his life in ours, our coming will not have been in vain.

A child born to an inheritance of want, a boy growing into a narrow world of ignorance, a youth taking up the burden of coarse manual labor, a man entering on the doubtful struggle of a local backwoods career, these were the beginnings of Abraham Lincoln, if we analyze them under the hard, practical, cynical philosophy which takes for its motto that nothing succeeds but success. If, however, we adopt a broader philosophy and apply the more generous and universal principle that everything succeeds which attacks favorable opportunity with fitting endeavor, then we see that it was the strong vitality the active intelligence, the law of moral growth that assimilates the good and rejects the bad, which nature gave this obscure child, that carried him to the service of mankind and to the admiration of the centuries with the same certainty with which the acorn grows to be the oak.

We see how even the limitations of his environment help the end. Self reliance, the most vital characteristic of the pioneer, was his by blood, and birth and training; and developed through the privations of his lot and the genius that was in him, to the mighty strength needed to guide our great country through the titanic struggle of the Civil War.

The sense of equality was his, also by virtue of his pioneer training, a consciousness fostered by life from childhood to adulthood in a state of society where there were neither rich to envy nor poor to despise, where the gifts and hardships of the forest were

distributed impartially to each and where men stood equal before the forces of unsubdued nature.

The same great forces taught liberality, modesty, charity, sympathy-- in a word, friendliness. In that hard life, far removed from the artificial aids and comforts of civilization, where all the wealth of Croesus, had a man possessed it, would not have sufficed to purchase relief from danger, or help in time of need, neighborliness became of prime importance. A good neighbor doubled his safety and his resources, a group of good neighbors increased his comfort and his prospects in a ratio that grew like the cube root. Here was opportunity to practice that virtue that Christ declared to be next to the love of God-- the fruitful injunction to "love thy neighbor as thyself".

Here, too, in communities far from the customary restraints of organized law, the common native intelligence of the pioneer was brought face to face with primary and tactical questions of natural right. These men not only understood but appreciated the American doctrine of self government. It was this understanding, this this feeling which taught Lincoln to write: "When the white man governs himself, that is self government; but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is more than self-government,- that is despotism"; and its philosophic corollary: "He who would be no slave, must consent to have no slave".

Abraham Lincoln sprang from exceptional conditions-- was in truth, in the language of Lowell, a "new birth of our new soil". But this distinction was not due alone to new environment. The ordinary man with ordinary natural gifts, found in Eastern pioneer communities a development essentially the same as he would have

found under Colonial Virginia or Puritan New England; a commonplace life, varying only with the changing ideas and customs of time and locality. But, for the man with extraordinary powers of body and mind, for the individual gifted by nature with the genius which Abraham Lincoln possessed, the pioneer condition, with its severe training in self denial, patience and industry, was favorable to a development of character that helped in a pre-eminent degree to qualify him for the duties and responsibilities of leadership and government. He escaped the formal conventionalities which beget insincerity and dissimulation. He grew up without being warped by erroneous ideas or false principles; without being dwarfed by vanity or tempted by self-interest.

Some pioneer communities carried with them the institution of slavery and in the slave state of Kentucky, Lincoln was born. He remained there only a short time, and we have every reason to suppose that wherever he might have grown to maturity, his very mental and moral fibre would have spurned the doctrine and practice of slavery. And yet, so subtle is the influence of birth and custom, that we can trace one lasting effect of this early and brief environment. Though he ever hated slavery, he never hated the slave holder. His ineradicable feeling of pardon and sympathy for Kentucky and the south, played no insignificant part in his dealings with grave problems of statesmanship. He struck slavery its death blow with the hand of war, but he tendered the slave holder a golden equivalent with the hand of friendship and peace.

It is true that Lincoln was ambitious, but he never allowed his ambitions to outgrow his judgment or his powers. From the day when he left the paternal roof and launched his canoe on the head

waters of the Sangamon River to begin life on his own account, to the day of his first inauguration, there intervened full thirty years of toil, study, self-denial and patience; often of effort baffled or hope deferred, sometimes bitter disappointment. Given the natural gift of great genius, it yet required an average life time and faithful unrelaxing effort to transform the raw country stripling into a competent ruler for this great nation. Every seeming defeat was a slow success. His was the growth of the oak. Every scaffolding of temporary elevation he pulled down, every ladder of transient expectation which broke under his feet, accumulated his strength and piled up a solid foundation which raised him to wider usefulness and clearer vision. He could not become a master workman until he had served a tedious apprenticeship. But his apprenticeship had been served, and there were no more failures. With faith, justice and generosity he conducted for four long years a civil war whose frontier stretched from the Potomac to the Rio Grande; whose soldiers numbered a million men on each side; in which, counting skirmishes and battles small and great, was fought an average of two engagements a day; during which every twenty-four hours saw an expenditure of two millions of dollars. And all the while conciliation was as active as vindication was stern. He reasoned and pleaded with the anger of the South; he gave insurrection time to repent, he forbore to execute retaliation; he pardoned treason. His human sympathy was best evidenced by his increasing visits to Hospitals and Camps. A tremendous strain was wearing on Lincoln as a consequence of these visits. He was tired and had but little sleep. What he saw left a deep and abiding truth in his soul; he saw the proof of the patriot^rism that had

actuated these men to give their lives, if need be, that the Union might be preserved. That was the purpose of the Government as Lincoln saw it. As the territory may be said to be its body, and its material activities its blood, so patriotism may be said to be the vital breath of a Nation. When patriotism dies, the nation dies and its resources as well as its territory go to other people with stronger vitality. Patriotism can in no way be more effectively cultivated than by studying and commemorating the achievements and virtues of our great men-- the men who have lived and died for the nation, who have advanced its prosperity, increased its power, added to its glory. In our brief history the United States can boast of many great men, and the achievements by its sons of many great deeds; and if we accord the first rank to Washington as a founder, so we must unhesitatingly give to Lincoln the second place as preserver and regenerator of American liberty. So far the popular heart has already canonized these two as twin stars in the firmament of our national fame.

My brothers, there are no records to show that Lincoln was a Mason but we do know that soon after his first election to the Presidency he expressed his purpose to become one upon retirement to private life. And furthermore, in all his acts, he was as much a Mason as it was possible for him to be without assuming the required obligations.

We learn that we are first made a Mason in our hearts. What is there in our hearts that makes us a Mason? It is first, our belief in a Divine Creator. Abraham Lincoln had that. There is born in the heart a desire to help mankind to a higher plane of living, by first living that experience ourselves. Abraham Lincoln did that very thing. As we progress in the several degrees, we are

taught that in the active principles of universal benefactions and charity we are to seek the solace of our own distress by extending comfort and consolation to our fellow creatures in the hour of their affliction. The whole world knows how nobly Lincoln exemplified these principles of his life.

In the struggles of his youth, he met his J. A. and overcame them. By his sorrows and disappointments in the noonday of his life he encountered his J. O. and by virtue of his noble character, came out victorious, only to meet his J. H. at the hand of an assassin, when he was ready to enjoy the fruits of a well spent life, and though his body lies in the bosom of another earth, his soul is marching on, and some day his body will be raised not by an earthly Master but by Him who rules and governs the whole earth.

If we who seek the privileges of Masonry would live such a life as Lincoln's, we could well have it said of us, 'There stands an upright man and Mason' for Lincoln ever walked and acted as such before God and man.

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NEW YORK
LINCOLN A PROSPECTIVE MASON

Was Abraham Lincoln a Mason? Some have argued that he was, and some have argued that he wasn't, and the arguments themselves have been both wise and otherwise. As so often happens, the truth is not wholly with either side. Lincoln was never initiated, was never the member of any Lodge, but he planned and purposed to be one, and if he had submitted a petition as he expected to do in 1869 doubtless he would have been elected. Only his death prevented.

This is proved with indubitable finality by a minute of Tyrian Lodge, No. 333, Springfield, Illinois, entered on its books in the form of a resolution, April 17, 1865, three days after the President had been assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. After expressing the general sorrow, the resolution reads:

"RESOLVED, that the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his application for the honors of Masonry, lest his motives should be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory."

The members of Tyrian Lodge were "intimate" friends and neighbors" of President Lincoln; the resolution would therefore not dare to state it as a matter of knowledge that Lincoln purposed to make a petition had they not been sure of their facts.

Their so stating proves two facts: that Lincoln had so favorable an impression of our Fraternity that he desired the honor of becoming a Mason, and that his only reason for not doing so until the expiration of his second term was that he feared lest the step might be construed as an act of partisanship. At the time, anti-Masonry was still rife at the Capital, indeed, President and Brother Andrew Johnson afterwards suffered severely from it, and Lincoln felt that his becoming a Mason just then might be seized upon by his enemies to disturb the delicate

political balance of the situation in which he stood. His motive in postponing his application was purely patriotic -- and therefore Masonic!



ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND MASONRY

By Daniel B. Robison,
P. M. Prairie Lodge, No. 1008, A.F. & A.M.

During the month of February, we in various ways pay homage to the memory of Washington and Lincoln,- the two most distinguished and outstanding Americans-- Washington was the "father" of our country-- Lincoln was its "savior".

Abraham Lincoln was, without doubt, the greatest uninitiated Mason. His every public utterance seemed to come from the lips of a Master Mason; his every public act seemed to be guided by the inspired mind of a Free and Accepted Mason; the very life he lived in all its greatness-- was an exemplification of the Masonic precepts which teach us of a purity of life and conduct which is so essentially necessary to our gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.

In studying the life of Lincoln it is hard for the ordinary student of history to reconcile the heights which he attained with the depths from which he came; or what he said and did with the narrow limitations of his life. He rose from humble poverty,- poor, penniless and unknown,- to fame, honor and immortality. He was born in abject poverty of ignorant, slothful, indolent, purposeless parents- cradled amid the dreary solitude of primeval frontier forests, in a floorless, doorless, windowless log cabin, in Hardin County, Kentucky; surrounded by environment so narrow and discouraging as to starve his very soul and stifle any ambition. It should be said, however, that his parents hoped their son would rise to a higher plane in life than that on which they lived; and though his mother died in his tenth year, he felt her Christian influence on his entire life. He began life in the backyard of our Republic; he gave up that life while serving the people in their highest office. He began as a bearer of burdens in the quarry and at the time of laying down the working tools of life was busily engaged as a wise Master Builder in the great and glorious undertaking of rebuilding the Temple of Union and Liberty.

The greatness of his genius was none the less great because it was, of necessity, of the "home grown" variety; the eloquence and correct English with which he spoke were not less wonderful due to his having gained his training and education in the greatest university on earth, "The University of Experience". He was a child of poverty dedicated to toil, yet freedom's advocate; the champion of justice, the emancipator of the slave, the savior of our nation, the friend of the friendless, the defender of our nation's honor, President of the United States.

No other man was like him. He was unique, he stood out in bold relief, he was original- he seemed to copy nothing from other men; he was himself; he was genuinely sincere, yet he was slow, awkward, sorrowful, homely and "filled with gloom". This, however,

failed to quench his ambitions or daunt his courage, and he stumbled on unafraid and alone. He was the gentlest, sweetest, tenderest, humblest character of all times since Jesus of Nazareth returned to the place whence He came; and the log cabin in Hardin county, Kentucky is comparable with the stable of Bethlehem. And to carry the comparison further, Abraham Lincoln was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,-- whenever he smiled, he seemed to smile through tears; for several long, troublesome, turbulent years he bore the sorrows of our nation and carried our grief. And, through it all the nobility of his character stood out in all its sublime greatness,-- there is no stain upon his memory.

Of all the great leaders of men, save only the Man of Galilee, Lincoln was the most sweetly human and the most universally beloved. He occupied the White House as the High Priest of humanity, with a heart filled with sympathy for the down-trodden and unfortunate; firm yet tender; broad minded yet strictly temperate; God fearing, liberty loving, law abiding, extremely humble, unusually kind. In dealing with others he "judged with candor, admonished with friendship and reprehended with justice". He was a thoroughly great man of undisputed integrity. He was never known to attempt to "gain his ends" through any unkindness to others-- not even his political opponents. He apparently had a perfect sense of justice which was the rule and guide of all his conduct. He knew neither Hate nor fear.

It was difficult to realize that one so definitely handicapped in so many ways could ever achieve a niche so prominent in the Hall of Fame. It should encourage any and all of us to note that through sorrow, grief, heartache, disappointment and adverse criticism, he retained an unshaken and sublime faith in "Him" Who doeth all things well". Exalted to a position of supreme power at the time of our nation's greatest crisis, he retained his patience, gentleness, goodness, faith-- and his clear, cool reasoning triumphed in an hour of one of the world's greatest tragedies. He could and did read men as well as books; and with unerring accuracy he read the "signs of the times". He always acted promptly and decisively, without fear or favor-- and oftentimes against the advice of his closest friends; he did what was right as he saw it and took the consequences of any errors he made without tendering a single alibi. He said "Whatever shall be God's will I will do".

He was a humorist whose heart was full of tears-- the pain and suffering of others was the source of his greatest grief.

He was a fighter, but for peace he had longed for an opportunity to strike a vital blow at the curse of Slavery; when that opportunity came he grasped it in no uncertain way-- for which countless millions have risen up to call him blessed.

During the Grand Lodge session in 1860 at Springfield a recess was declared while the Grand Lodge representatives called on Mr. Lincoln. During the conversation which ensued, Mr. Lincoln said: "Gentlemen, I have always entertained a profound respect for the Masonic fraternity and I have long cherished a desire to be come a member, but I have never petitioned because I have felt my own

unworthiness to do so" (to this the visitors voiced a protest). Mr. Lincoln continued, "I might be overcoming my hesitancy and be petitioning at the present time but I am a candidate for political ~~time~~ office, and by some such action would be misconstrued. For this reason, because my motives would be misconstrued, I must for the time being refrain." Five years later Lincoln was assassinated and Tyrian Lodge, No. 333, A. F. & A. M., of Springfield, Illinois, passed the following resolution on April 17th, 1865: "Resolved, that the decision of President Lincoln to postpone his applications for the honors of Masonry lest his motives should be misconstrued, is in the highest degree, honorable to his memory."

The two above mentioned incidents very accurately indicate the attitude of Mr. Lincoln toward our fraternity, and of our fraternity toward Mr. Lincoln. A man can be a Christian outside the Church, and Mr. Lincoln proved that a man can be a Mason outside the Lodge.

He was and is a citizen of eternity, whose life is an inspiration and his memory a benediction.

He gave utterance to the greatest speech of human tongue for all time. "The Gettysburg Address", and it sounds akin to Masonic ritual. And when it was thought that his greatness was still aspiring he fell, like autumn leaves, to enrich our Mother earth. He was slain just before the completion of the work of rebuilding the Temple of Union and Liberty; and he maintained his integrity unto death and sealed his principles with his vital, royal blood. He was, in all ways, a Mason at heart, though uninitiated. What a wonderful Mason he would have been if initiated! Truly, "Of all the sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, "It might have been"".

Safe resting on Thy mighty arm,
 Guide us through all these earthly ways;
 And grant us in Thy heavenly Lodge
 To join in never-ending praise.

It may be further noted as an extenuating circumstance that in 1867 Bro. ROBINS was quite a young man.

The annual observance of St. John's Day seems to have been followed for several years afterward, but by 1870 the custom seems to have fallen into disuse, and now it is only on rare occasions and in isolated instances that we hear of it.

THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

A BRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, was shot by an assassin at the National Capital, on the evening of April 14, 1865, and died on the morning of the day following. The President was not a Mason; yet no class of men in this country more deeply or universally sympathized with their fellow-citizens in this great common affliction than the members of the Masonic Fraternity. They everywhere united with the masses of the people in the public manifestations of sorrow and respect which the virtue and patriotism of the deceased called forth, and in their own assemblies their sympathies and sentiments were eloquently embodied in memorial tributes and resolutions. Particularly was this true in Illinois, for Mr. LINCOLN was one of our own citizens; a man who, by merit alone, had risen from poverty and obscurity to the highest office within the gift of the people; and Illinois loved and honored him.

As the funeral *cortege* passed along from Washington to Springfield and hundreds of organizations, military, civic, and otherwise, turned out to pay their tribute of respect to the Nation's dead, it is beyond dispute that the Masonic Fraternity, both

as regards numbers, general appearance and demeanor, were not the least imposing, as the lay press of many cities have, without exception, testified. At Chicago, the remains were received with the respect, sorrow, and affection becoming to the great Illinois metropolis. Nothing was omitted—nothing left undone. It was estimated that not less than 250,000 were in the procession and along the streets, upon the buildings, or in positions to catch a glimpse of the hearse as it slowly moved on to the heart of the great city. The Masons turned out in force and received the body, with their symbols and emblems. The ceremonies were all of the most appropriate character, and reflected the highest credit upon the authorities and the people, and upon men of every party, society, and sect.

At Springfield the Grand Lodge was convened in occasional communication to attend the interment, while Masons of all grades from all parts of the State joined in the procession that followed the remains to the grave.

THE TYRIAN RESOLUTIONS.

When the news of the assassination

reached Springfield it produced results that were but the counterpart of what transpired in other parts of the State. On the Monday following, Tyrian Lodge, No. 333, met and adopted the following preamble and resolutions:

IN TYRIAN LODGE, No. 333, A. F. & A. M.,
SPRINGFIELD, ILL., April 17, A.D. 1865, A.L. 5865.

The first thought of a Mason should be, as his duty is, to trust in God. This thought leads the true Mason to desire His aid and guidance. From this comes Faith; and then follows Hope, inciting to action. Trust and Hope inspire confidence in government and respect for law.

The true Mason never despairs; whatever may be his fortune, his faith remains.

The tragical and barbarous assassination of President LINCOLN, our National head and representative, is well calculated to try our faith, to shake our hope, and prostrate our spirit.

Governments are ordained of God, and are the ministers of His will. The administrators of government may change, but the government remains.

All good Masons are peaceable subjects to the powers that be, and never suffer themselves to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the peace and welfare of the nation, to behave undutifully to the lawful authorities, or countenance a brother in his rebellion, though he may be pitied as an unhappy man.

Masonry has flourished in these United States, with but rare exceptions at short intervals, as it has never flourished elsewhere since the days of Solomon and Hiram.

Masonry has flourished under the protection of our Government, and Masons have supported, upheld, and maintained the Government. Washington founded the nation; Jefferson drew its declaration of principles, and Jackson brought its second war of independence to a successful termination.

The blood of Masons and patriots shed upon the battle-fields of this Republic has cemented our Government with bonds and cords which no human arm can sever.

One whom we all loved, in the glory of his manhood, and in the zenith of his fame, has been cruelly and murderously slain! But shall we despair? Shall we cease to hope? Shall we basely cower and shrink and skulk because the assassin is at work; because the murderer seeks our life; because traitors seek to overthrow our Government? Never, no, never before God!

Let our faith be firmer and our hope brighter; for, as we trust in God, so we hope by His favor to make a just and imperishable Government.

The members of Tyrian Lodge, No. 333, A. F. & A. M., in regular communication convened, with members of Springfield Lodge, No. 4, Central Lodge, No. 71, and other worthy visiting brethren, deem this a suitable occasion to express their opinions as Masons and citizens in this momentous crisis; therefore,

Resolved, That as the immediate friends and neighbors of our late beloved and now revered President LINCOLN, we deeply and sorrowfully deplore his death.

Resolved, That the scrupulous honor and honesty of President LINCOLN in all his private relations, his faithfulness and kindness as a husband and father, his fairness and ability as a lawyer, his wisdom and public spirit as a citizen, and his patient, humane and honest career as a magistrate and statesman, furnish examples worthy of all praise and imitation.

Resolved, That we sincerely condole with the bereaved widow and fatherless children in their terrible and irreparable loss.

Resolved, That the decision of President LINCOLN to postpone his application for the honors of Masonry, lest his motives should be misconstrued, is in the highest degree honorable to his memory.

Resolved, That the murderer of President LINCOLN, and the assassin of Secretary SEWARD, should be hunted with unceasing vigilance and vigor *until found*, and be brought to trial, judgment and punishment.

Resolved, That Masons should in all cases be subject to the law, abide by the law, be ready to assist in enforcing it, and should never connive at, tolerate or encourage disrespect for law, or any disobedience or infraction of it; for Masons hold themselves subject to rules; and the law of God, and of the land, should in *all cases* be the paramount rule of action.

Resolved, That we have an unshaken faith in the principles of free government; and while we tolerate the utmost freedom of opinion and choice, we hold it to be our duty, and we hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to stand by the Government in all its lawful measures to preserve its vigor and maintain its integrity.

Resolved, That a copy of this preamble and these resolutions be forwarded to every lodge in this State, with a request that the same be concurred in, and that the action of each lodge be communicated to the Grand Secretary.

Resolved, That the editor of the *Masonic Traveler*,

and of the several papers published in this State, be requested to publish this preamble and these resolutions.

O. H. MINTZ, W. M.

H. G. REYNOLDS,

JESSE K. DUROIS,

J. R. TYSON,

T. R. KING,

PIERSON ROLL,

Committee.

JOHN C. REYNOLDS, *Secretary.*

A copy of these resolutions was transmitted to every lodge in the jurisdiction, and from the immediate and hearty response which they elicited they may fairly be said to have represented the feelings and sentiments of the entire fraternity. In almost every lodge they were either "unanimously adopted," "heartily concurred in," or "approved and endorsed," while in not a few chapters and other Masonic bodies they were adopted "as the sense and feeling" of the body. Possibly the general sentiment could not be better expressed than by the return of Freebourn Lodge, No. 418—

"That the country and cause of human liberty and good government have sustained a great loss in the death of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, and that the murderers are enemies alike to Masonry, manhood, our country and God."

THE FUNERAL.

History has preserved the record of the progress of the funeral car, which bore the remains of the dead President from the scene of his tragic death to their final resting place at his old home; but of the part sustained by the Masonic Fraternity in this sad pageant but little has been said. Yet no class of our citizens was more conspicuous than the ancient craft, and here, as elsewhere, it gave a most unequivocal public demonstration of one of its fundamental traits of character—loyalty.

From the columns of the *Masonic Trowel*

we glean the following facts concerning the action of the fraternity before and at the interment.

At the time of the assassination it would seem that the Grand Master (Bro. TURNER) was absent from the jurisdiction, being then in Washington. With some difficulty his whereabouts was at length ascertained and a request was forwarded for a dispensation to the craft to appear as lodges and in Masonic clothing. To this request he telegraphed the Grand Secretary as follows:

"The Free Masons of Illinois will attend the funeral of the late President A. LINCOLN clothed as Masons.
THOMAS J. TURNER."

This statement was sent by wire to all parts of the State.

On the Friday following (April 28) Bro. BROMWELL, D. G. M., arrived in Springfield, and, in the absence of the Grand Master, assumed direction of affairs, the first step being the issuance of the following proclamation:

TO THE GLORY OF THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE.

FROM THE EAST OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS.

To all Masters, Wardens and Brethren of the State of Illinois, Health, Union and Peace:

BRETHREN: The funeral of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, late President of the United States, gives occasion to all citizens, particularly to those of Illinois, to express, by the most solemn public demonstrations, their own grief and that of the Nation.

Stricken down by an assassination, which for wickedness and brutality has had no parallel since the days of Cain, the noble-hearted and merciful Chief Magistrate of our Nation, at the hour when the sun of his glory was at its meridian height, and just before completing the glorious work of his life, is left a lifeless corpse, to be cared for by all who loved him and his country.

As the principles of free government, and the laws of the land, no less than the precepts of true religion, are part of Ancient Craft Masonry, this is a

most fitting time and occasion for all true Masons to remember the honor of the country, the dignity of the craft, and the duty of good men, by assembling in full regalia, according to rank and degree, to take part in the funeral ceremonies.

Accordingly, in absence of the Most Worthy Grand Master, I hereby convoke a general meeting of the Craft in Grand Lodge, at Masonic Hall, in Springfield, on Thursday, May 4th, 5865, to attend the funeral of the late President, at which time and place all Masons, of every degree, are invited to be present.

"The will of God is accomplished." So mote it be.

H. P. H. BROWWELL,
Acting Grand Master.

In response, a large number of the craft from every part of the State repaired to Springfield to participate in the obsequies. What followed cannot better be told than in the language of Bro. REYNOLDS. He says :

"The three lodges, chapter and council of this city immediately appropriated the sum of one hundred dollars each (being five hundred dollars) to provide such shelter and food for the weary and hungry Mason as propriety and necessity might justify. It proved, in the hands of Bro. HICKOX and the several committees, to be both timely and sufficient. Bro. BROWWELL devoted all his time and energies to the work before us. He assisted Bro. GEORGE F. WRIGHT, the chairman of the committee on catafalque, canopy, decorations, etc., by his mechanical genius and handy taste and application, and, like St. PAUL, labored day and night with his hands. He also assisted us materially by his counsel and labor in preparing for the last sad rites.

"On Wednesday morning, May 3, the State House and inclosure, under the general direction of Bro. WRIGHT—the canopy and interior arrangements of the Representative Hall and rotunda under his special direction, the catafalque under the direction

of Col. A. SCHWARTZ, the exterior decorations of the State House and grounds under the direction of Bro. E. E. MYERS,—were completed and ready to receive the honored remains of the illustrious dead.

"A large platform had been erected on the west side and in the center of the hall. The catafalque was placed upon this, with the head to the west, with steps leading to the northeast corner of the platform, so that in passing around the head of the coffin the beholder had a full side and head view without stopping, and, passing around had a last side glimpse while about to descend the steps at the southeast corner. Over the whole were the following mottoes: On the south side of WASHINGTON'S portrait, 'WASHINGTON the Father;' on the north side, 'LINCOLN the Savior;' on the circle of the gallery on the east side of the hall, and extending from the north to the south end, 'Sooner Than Surrender These Principles I Would be Assassinated on the Spot.'

"At nine o'clock, May 3, a large concourse had gathered together at the Chicago & Alton Depot. Soon the train arrived. Delegations from Chicago and other cities, Governors, dignitaries, foreign representatives, came forward and were decorously formed in lines. The beautiful car containing the remains stopped on the south line of Jefferson street, and the bearers, amid the weeping and tears of the people, such as we never witnessed before, amid profound silence, interrupted only by audible sobbings here and there, deposited the body in the hearse, and with mournful, touching music, the body was conveyed to the Representatives Hall and placed upon the catafalque, with a Major General at the head and another at the foot, and a line of

double guards leading from the north gate to the body, and another from the body to the south gate. In the evening we went with our children to see him. Then we saw only Mr. LINCOLN. We were unsatisfied. In the morning early we looked at him again. Silence reigned. WASHINGTON seemed to look upon his son. The dead seemed to be resting peacefully where he had so often convulsed his hearers by his drollness and wit, where he had enchanted them by his eloquence, where he had subdued them to tears by his pathos and tenderness. We went from that presence a better man. From ten o'clock in the morning of May 3, thousands thronged that guarded passway to the scene of death. It is estimated that not less than 75,000 viewed his remains, while nearly as many came too late for admittance, and the placid, pleasant and well-known features were closed from mortal vision."

Acting Grand Master BROMWELL opened an Emergent Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons in the first degree, as follows:

H. P. H. BROMWELL, as Grand Master.
A. J. VAN DEREN, Grand Master, Colorado.

J. R. GORIN (8), Dep. Gr. Master, p. t.
E. F. BABCOCK, Sen. Gr. Warden.
N. W. HUNTLEY, Jun. Gr. Warden.
B. F. BRISTOW (3), Gr. Treasurer, p. t.
J. J. COOK (333), Gr. Secretary, p. t.
Rev. A. BOWERS (344), Gr. Chaplain, p. t.

H. C. DAWSON, Gr. Sen. Deacon, p. t.
WILLIAM NASH (40), Gr. Jun. Deacon, p. t.

WM. F. ELKIN, Jr. (71), Grand Steward.

D. H. PORTER (110), Grand Steward, p. t.

H. C. SHOCKLEY (8), Grand Marshal, p. t.

JOSEPH GAGE (312), Gr. Standard Bearer, p. t.

DANIEL WADSWORTH (354), Gr. Sword Bearer, p. t.

S. H. CLASPILL (333), Grand Tyler, p. t.

Comp. L. L. MUNN, D. G. High Priest of the Grand Chapter, being present, improvised and clothed a Grand Chapter on the spot, as follows:

L. L. MUNN, as Grand High Priest.
T. D. SEWELL (62), Dep. Gr. H. Priest, p. t.

W. R. PHILIPS (16), Gr. King, p. t.

W. H. TAYLOR (59), Grand Scribe, p. t.

F. P. ROSE (1), Grand Capt. Host, p. t.

D. M. VAN DEREN (1), Grand Chap., p. t.

J. A. BROWN (50), Grand Treas., p. t.

R. K. HAWLEY (1), Gr. Sec., p. t.

L. T. HEWINS, ———, G. P. Soj., p. t.

WM. ELSTON (44), G. R. A. Capt., p. t.

JOHN QUINLAN (21), G. M. 3d V., p. t.

L. W. FAULKNER (50), G. M. 2d V., p. t.

R. M. EPSTEIN (50), G. M. 1st V., p. t.

A. D. WYSONG (59), G. Steward, p. t.

JAMES MANN (8), G. Tyler, p. t.

The fraternity was formed as follows:

Elwood Commandery, No. 6, and guests, in full dress, to the number of about forty, under the command of Past Commander DORWIN, assisted by Capt. GEO. W. HILL, of the Regular Army. The Templars were the most attractive feature of the procession, and were just numerous enough to manœuvre well and perform escort duty.

Then followed:

Grand Tyler, with drawn sword.

Stewards with white rods.

Tylers of Lodges.

Entered Apprentices, eight abreast.
 Fellow Crafts, eight abreast.
 Master Masons, eight abreast.
 Junior and Senior Deacons of Lodges.
 Secretaries and Treasurers of Lodges.
 Junior Wardens of Lodges.
 Senior Wardens of Lodges.
 Past Masters of Lodges.
 Royal Arch Masons.
 The Grand Chapter, formed as above.
 Senior and Junior Grand Deacons.
 Grand Sword and Standard Bearers.
 Grand Marshal.
 Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary.
 Past Grand Senior and Junior Wardens.
 Past Deputy Grand Masters.
 Dep. Gr. Master and Grand Chaplain.
 Grand Masters.
 Stewards with white rods.

This portion of the procession numbered between four and five hundred, and composed section one of the Seventh Division of the main column.

This section was under the immediate command of Grand Lecturer FISHER, assisted by Bro. THOS. C. JEWEL, as aid, and Bro. WM. H. BROADWELL, of Jacksonville; JOHN W. CAMPION, of Lincoln; JOHN M. PEARSON, of Alton; E. BERGMAN, WILLIAM F. ELKIN, and C. H. PHILBRICK, of Springfield, as Assistant Marshals. It constituted the right of the Division.

Of course, there were no Masonic ceremonies of any kind, the demonstration being simply an overt manifestation of sympathy by a loyal and patriotic brotherhood, and for the exercises of the grave the reader is referred to general history.

DOUGLAS MONUMENT CELEBRATION.

ONE of the events in the history of the craft in Illinois which, in the opinion of the editor, is worthy of commemorative notice in a work of this character, is the ceremony which attended the laying of the corner-stone of the monument erected by the Commonwealth of Illinois in honor of STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS. The site chosen was near his old home at Cottage Grove in the city of Chicago and immediately overlooking Lake Michigan. The Grand Lodge was invited by the civic authorities to officiate, and the time fixed upon was May, 1866. It was found that this date was too early and the celebration was postponed

until July 4, but it was not until September 6, 1866, that the ceremony was actually performed. The following account is taken from the *Masonic Trowel* of date September 15, 1866, and was written by the editor, Bro. HARMAN G. REYNOLDS:

"No such display of eminent abilities, worth, distinction, and force, has ever graced the proud metropolitan home, the Empire State of the Mississippi Valley, and the giant Northwest, like that which occurred at the laying of the corner-stone of the monument to the memory of the orator, magistrate, and Freemason—the most heroic and renowned statesman of the age—

